

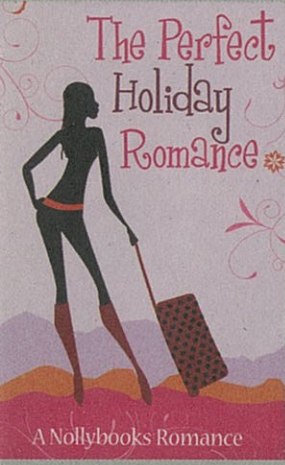
BOOK WORM



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The Perfect Holiday Romance

Paula Marais
Nollybooks



Seeing the cover in all its pink glory had me thinking *Sex and the City* and *Girlfriends*. Thoughts of giggling females painting toenails and over-indulging on ice cream came to mind – turns out I wasn't too far

off, it reads a little like a fairytale. *The Perfect Holiday Romance* is a Nollywood bookazine, "books that read and think like magazines". It's a compact, travel-size read – a chic flick.

With a couple of published books under her belt, South African-born author Paula Marais shares with the reader Nomisa Moleme's Cinderella story. Except that the travelling is done not so much in a pumpkin carriage as in a plane. And Vuyo Motsepe, aka Prince Charming (with a house in Houghton and two kids) isn't quite as charming as one would expect – he's aloof, abrupt and cold. But Nomisa finds herself falling for him anyway...

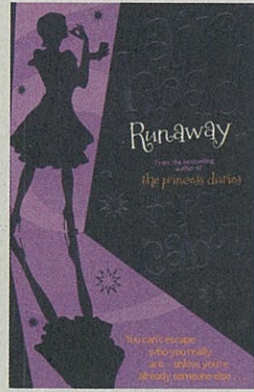
Nomisa is tasked with minding Vuyo's children on a family holiday. She grows annoyed with him when she realises he is spending more time at work than with his children and struggles to bite her tongue. Of course it wouldn't be a love story if it didn't come with a twist: in this case it's the unexpected arrival of uber-sexy and sophisticated Khanyi, who just happens to have a close working relationship with the handsome prince. This sees Nomisa struggling with thoughts of inadequacy. But before I give the whole thing away let me stop right here. It's a light read. Put your feet up, grab your favourite treat and indulge.

– *Nobhongo Gxolo*



Runaway

Meg Cabot
MacMillan, 2009



Somebody is running away alright – Em's unethical organisation, Stark Enterprises. Em has learned some secrets about Nikki and is looking to expose the company she works for, for what it really is. Caught in the middle between two boys – Brandon, heir to Stark Enterprises, and Christopher, Em's friend and crush – Em is forced to give up the boy she loves to be with her forceful employer's son. And it seems Nikki is still alive, so why Stark's move to transplant brains? Yes, the plot does thicken.

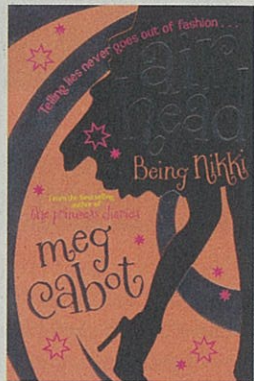
The ending is very satisfying, though predictable.

– *NoBuntu Mqulwana*



Being Nikki

Meg Cabot
MacMillan, 2009



The second instalment in a series of three books by the famed author of *Princess Diaries* is fantastic. This first title, *Airhead*, is followed by *Runaway*.

A multi-billion dollar company is ready for a new model and the brain of the in-house

popular model, Nikki Howard, is transplanted into Em Watts, zip-your-lips contracts and all. But it seems Em is getting more than she bargained for: Nikki's secrets and scandals, along with the beauty, money and popularity. Juggling proves to be a job in itself. There are many twists and turns that I will not give away, but the writing is clear and easy, no

dictionaries needed here. A teen phenomenon, like all things *Twilight*. A perfect series to keep ones mind riveted.

– *NoBuntu Mqulwana*



Zulu Boy Gone Crazy

Fred Khumalo
KMM Review Publishing



"When I grow up, I want to write like Fred Khumalo," says writer Ndumiso Ngcobo. I couldn't have said it better. Khumalo's writing is the wiser, more mature, more worldly version of Ngcobo. He tackles the South

African condition from the Zulu perspective, poking fun at Zulu idiosyncrasies, politics and memorable but dubious characters from his childhood. The prose is entertaining and thought-provoking. But sometimes he takes too long to get to the punch. Regardless, the book is worth a read if only to make you laugh out loud awkwardly in public places.

– *Nobhongo Gxolo*

